

Dept. of Social Services Special Called Board Mtg.

Minutes from 4/13/18, Open session

In attendance:

James Jallah, DSS board member

Karen Kephart, DSS board chair

Robert Merrill, DSS board member

Susan Landis, DSS board member

Mr. Moore, Attorney for DSS

Cindy Palmer, Director DSS

Ms. Wudarsky, attorney for Ms. Palmer in a specific capacity

4 staff members from DSS

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Kephart. Mr. Jallah asked whether Dr. Eichenbaum would be attending. (Dr. Eichenbaum is the fifth member of the DSS board). Ms. Kephart and Mr. Moore responded that Dr. Eichenbaum had a medical appointment out of town today and was unable to attend. Ms. Kephart asked if there was a motion to go into closed session. Mr. Jallah asked if there was an agenda. Mr. Moore passed one to him. Two employees who were attending asked to speak on Ms. Palmer's behalf. Ms. McLean spoke first and read aloud a letter from the staff in support of Ms. Palmer. Ms. Hurt then spoke briefly also in support of Ms. Palmer. The motion was made, seconded and voted upon to go into closed session.

Closed session commenced. Only the board members and Mr. Moore attended.

The open meeting was resumed. Ms. Palmer and Ms. Wudarsky re-entered the room. Three motions were made, and each was seconded and approved by the board.

1. Ms. Palmer was placed on a 30 day investigative leave.
2. The board approved entering into a contract with Vanguard services for assistance in hiring personnel.
3. The board approved hiring Kay Fields as interim Director of Cherokee County DSS.

Ms. Kephart provided Ms. Palmer with a letter stating the board has placed her on investigative leave, with some details regarding the reason for this action and the mechanics of her leave. Ms. Palmer explained to the board about one important task that she needed to take care of today before leaving. She was told that she would be allowed to complete that task. Ms. Kephart would arrange to collect Ms. Palmer's ID and keys.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Susan Landis, DSS board member